

SUFFOLK GUILD OF RINGERS BELFRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of Committee Meeting held at St. Mary's, Bildeston, on Friday, 19th October, 2007 at 7.0p.m.

The Meeting was preceded by a short ring on the bells. Present: Carol Girling, Winston Girling (Chairman) Christopher McArthur, Alan Moulton, Christopher Nunn, Jonathan Stevens, Dr. Bruce Wakefield, Neville Whittell.

The Meeting stood in silence in Memory of the former tower captain at Bildeston, Colin Steele, who had recently died.

Apologies for Absence: Michael Rolph (Guild Technical Advisor) John Taylor.

Confirming Minutes: The Minutes of the Meeting held at Clopton on Friday, 15th June, 2007, were confirmed and signed.

Matters Arising: Jonathan Stevens reported that ringing has commenced again at **Monewden** – apparently no problems with the tower.

District Reports.

North East: Jonathan Stevens said that at **Chediston** the restoration project has been delayed because of quotes from bellhangers. At **Kelsale** there are moves to restore and possibly augment to 10, and at **Little Glemham** following a test ring, it was discovered that the west outer frame cill is not properly supported; Jonathan has now attended and carried out the necessary repairs. Michael Rolph had reported for the Meeting that a test ring at **Laxfield** had revealed excessive frame movement and tower problems. It is hoped to create enough interest locally to try and restore this ring.

North West: Chris Nunn reported that Winston, Paul, Carol and himself had been to **Risby St. Giles**, where the incumbent had queried whether the 3 bells, tenor 10cwt 2 qrs., could be rung full circle. It was discovered that the bells were in good order and a test ring created very little tower movement. A new stay and slider have been fitted and replacement ropes and there is no reason why the bells should not be rung full circle providing the architect/engineer is consulted to confirm that they are happy with the integrity of the tower structure. Chris thanked Winston for his report and visits. Winston Girling said that he had been to **Onehouse St. John**. Carol and himself had checked and tightened the two small chiming bells which can now continue to be used by the Parish. Winston also reported that at **Ixworth** a lottery grant has been awarded for their restoration and they now have virtually all of money needed. Two new bells have been ordered to augment the peal to eight and work is expected to commence in June 2008. An offer by the Guild to remove the present 6 bells and to help with the installation has been accepted by the Parish. At **Wickham Skeith** the clapper on the 3rd had worked very loose and it was found that the bellhangers had not fitted it properly in the first place. Winston and Carol have now fitted the clapper properly. At Bacton the clapper had come out of the 5th during ringing. It had jammed in the frame, bending the wrought iron clapper and causing a fragment to be knocked out of the rim of the bell. The bell has been checked and is not cracked, and the clapper straightened and replaced by Winston.

South East: Chris McArthur said that he had attended at **Framlingham** where the bells had not been checked for some time. Several clappers were loose on this modern installation and he would be sorting it out tomorrow (Oct 20th) The tower now has a system in place to hopefully keep an eye on the installation. Winston thanked

Chris for dealing with this as he had not had time to do it. Winston Girling reported that at **Campsea Ashe** it is intending to restore the bells and augment to 6. It is proposed to install a steel 6 bell frame lower in the tower, hang the present tenor in the old wooden frame for chiming, and create a 6 with the present 5th as a tenor, with 3 new treble bells to complete the 6wt ring. (see grants, later) Also Michael Rolph had reported for the Meeting that he had been to **St. Mary at Elms, Ipswich** (derelict 5) These are in very poor condition. He has recommended hanging all 5 bells on deadstocks in the present frame so that they can be chimed by one person. At **Woodbridge** Dr. Bruce Wakefield reported that there are cracks propagating on the inside of the tower. The Church Architect says that it is in order to carry on ringing and he is keeping an eye on things. Jonathan Stevens agreed to go and help Bruce with any tightening, etc. It was also reported that at **Charsfield** there is a bell in the Church porch which really should be put somewhere more secure. Winston said that he would contact the Parish and suggest this to them.

South West: Winston Girling said that he was ready to do the work at **Sudbury All Saints**, and Jonathan Stevens would make a laminated headstock and Tony Baines the new bearings for the 7th bell. All is held up at the moment due to the Faculty application. Neville Whittell said that at **Hadleigh** the ringer who was subject to a bell 'jumping the wheel' had been moved to another bell and any problems reported there now resolved.

Applications for Grants: Elmsett - £2,761.00 to hang additional bell to make 3 hung for full circle ringing in new steel 6 bell frame. Committee suggested grant of £350 which was unanimous. (Taylors Eayre & Smith) **Campsea Ashe** Preferred bellhanger Nicholson Engineering. Cost £56,070 + other work on tower associated with bell work. Committee suggested grant of £6,500 which was also unanimous.

Technical Advisor's Report: already reported to Committee.

Any Other Business: None

Date and Place of Next Meeting: 10 Bells Public House, Stonham Aspal, 7.0p.m. Friday, 8th February, 2008. Subject to agreement by landlord.

The Meeting closed at 8.30p.m.

Winston S. Girling
Chairman.